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A HISTORY OF THE
PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH
IN
ST. ANNE, ILLINOIS



By REV. S. A. WOODRUFF, JR.

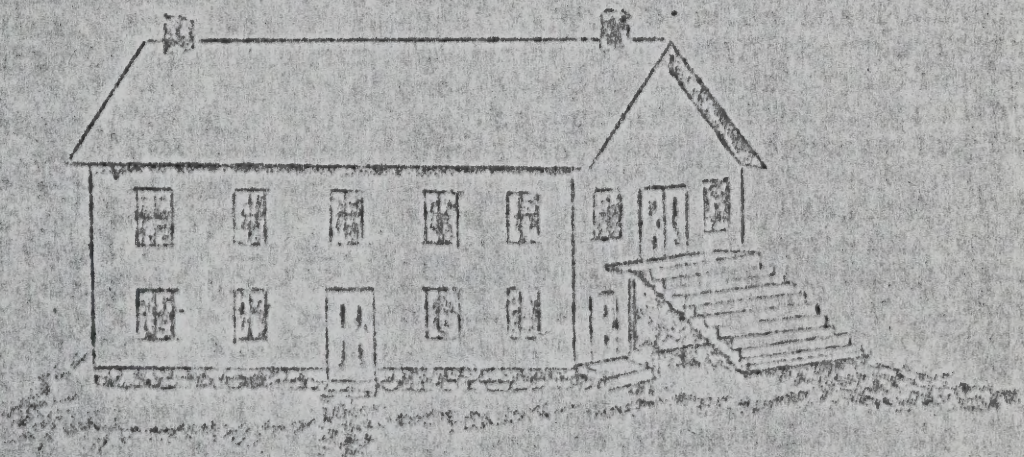
JULY 1950

A History of the Presbyterian Church in St. Anne, Illinois

Introduction

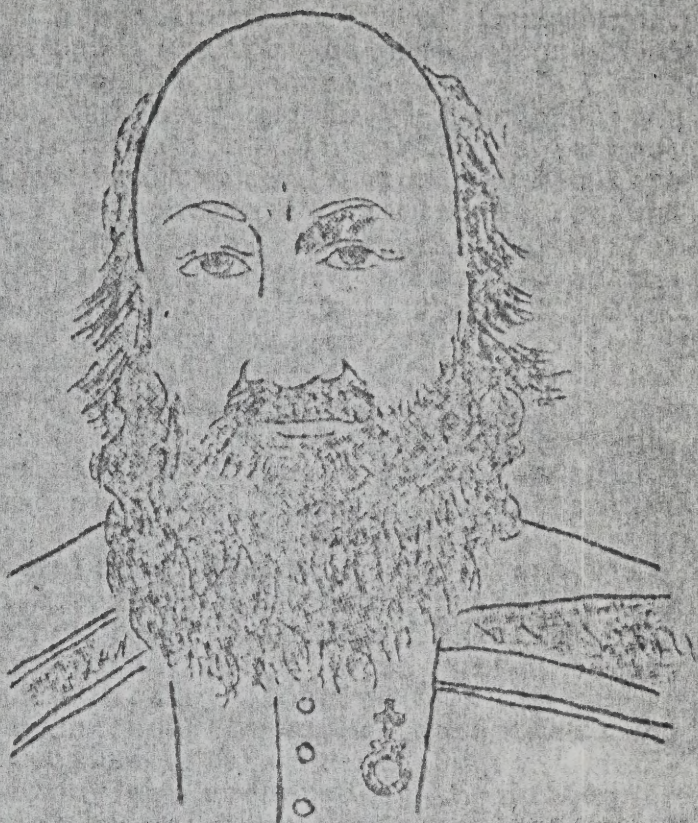
The St. Anne Centennial Celebration of July 27 to 30, 1950 is the occasion for setting forth this brief history of the Presbyterian Church in St. Anne, Illinois

It has been the writer's endeavor to authenticate every statement in this paper. The following materials have been studied with this in view: the permanent records of the two Presbyterian churches of St. Anne which include sessional records, congregational meetings, registers of membership, baptisms, marriages and deaths; abstracts and deeds to property; History of the St. Anne Presbyterian Church by Rev. Placide Boudreau; minutes of the Presbytery of Chicago from 1860; minutes of the General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. A. from 1860; Biographical Catalogue of Western Theological Seminary for 1827 to 1927; Illustrated Historical Atlas of Kankakee County, Illinois of 1883; Historical Encyclopedia of Illinois (1880); St. Anne Record; History of Iroquois County (1880) by Beckwith; Fifty Years in the Church of Rome and Forty Years in the Church of Christ by Rev. Chiniquy; correspondence with the following - Mrs. C. T. Doddridge, Rev. Louis R. Giroulx, Mrs. Percide Beauchamp, Rev. Morton W. Merrell, Rev. Simon F. Wenger, Rev. I. W. Parrish, Sr., and Rev. Bertram Betteridge. I am indebted to the many friends in St. Anne who have contributed orally from their own experiences. Brevity has ruled against presenting many more interesting events. For the several sketches I am indebted to Mrs. Kenneth Allain, Mrs. Blanche Kershaw and Miss Rachel Browning.



The above picture represents the First Presbyterian Church built in 1872 and torn down early in 1893 to make way for the present building pictured on the cover. The present building lacks a steeple, it having been removed following a tornado in 1916. The original building, erected in 1852, burned in 1872. It went thru the transition of being used first for the Roman Catholic Church (1852 - 58), the Christian Catholic Church (1858 - 60), and finally the First Presbyterian Church from 1860. In General Assembly Minutes, Old School, it is listed as "French Church."

The Presbyterian Church in St. Anne, Illinois was Founded by the Rev. Charles Paschal Telesphore Chiniquy, D. D., who was likewise founder of our village. This Christian gentleman was born at Kamouraska, Quebec, July 30, 1809, of Charles and Reine Perreault Chiniquy. His father was a notary and his mother, his first teacher, using a French-Latin Bible, taught him to read the truths of God which became the foundation upon which he built his faith. His undergraduate study was in private schools; in 1822, he graduated from Nicolet College, continued his studies and was ordained to the priesthood, September 21, 1833, in the Cathedral of Quebec.

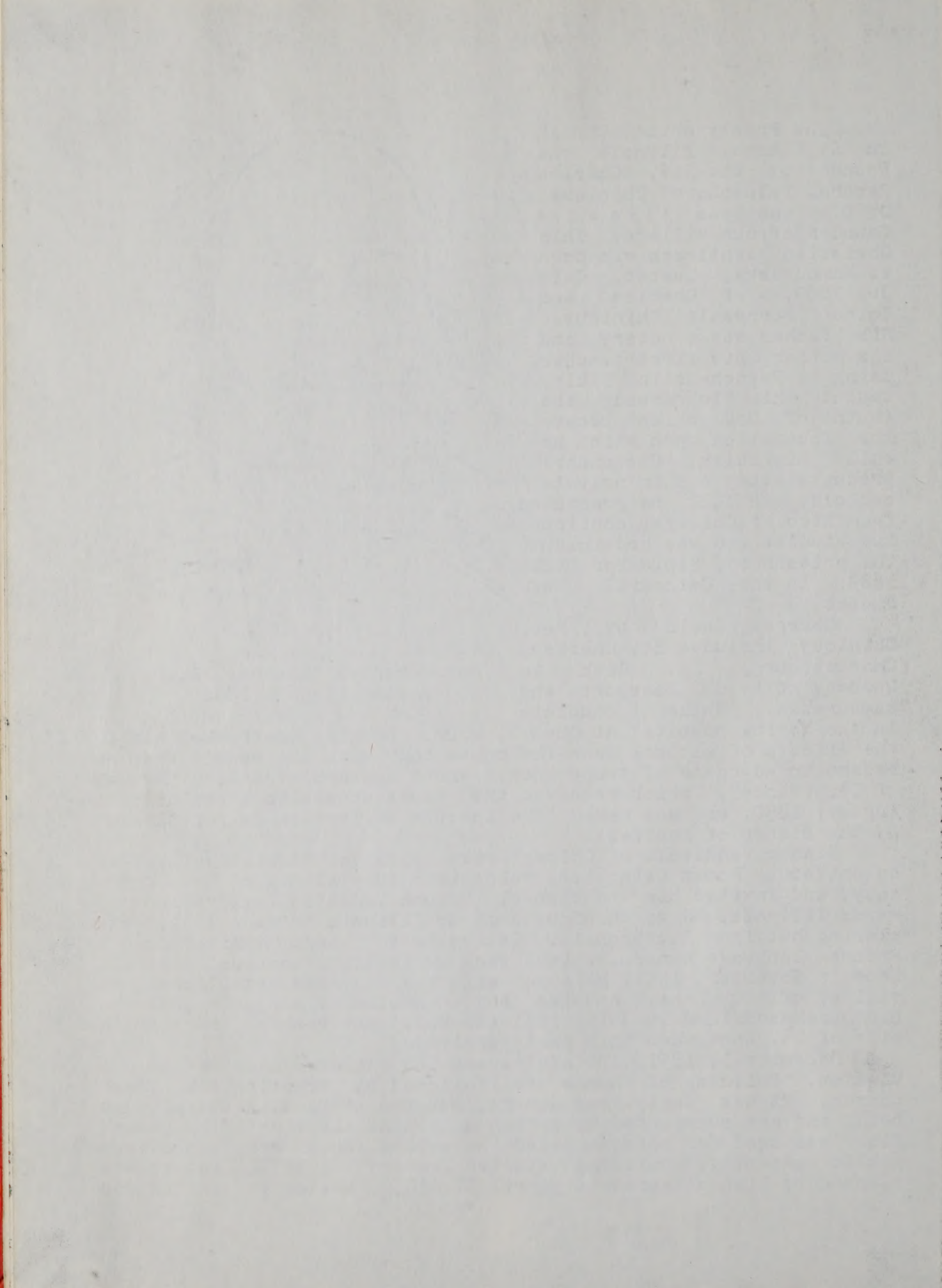


Rev. Charles Chiniquy, D. D.
Pastor 1858 - 1888

Charges held by Rev. Chiniquy included St. Charles, Charlesbourg, St. Roch in Quebec City, Beauport and Kamouraska. While chaplain in the Marine hospital at Quebec, a Dr. Douglas instructed him in the effects of alcohol upon the human body with the result that he became an advocate of temperance, wrote a pamphlet called "Manual of Temperance", which received the papal apostolic benediction in August, 1850, and was named "The Apostle of Temperance for Canada" by the Bishop of Montreal.

Bishop Vandeveld of Chicago visualized the Mississippi Valley colonized by Roman Catholics, recognized the talents of Rev. Chiniquy, and invited him to channel French Canadian immigration towards Illinois. Rev. Chiniquy came to Illinois in June 1851, exploring out from Bourbonnais. Returning to Canada he advertised in French language papers, stimulating immigration towards Illinois. Late in November, 1851, he came with a group and established the village of St. Anne. Antoine and Ambroise Allain, Sr., who had purchased land in July, 1851 and built their homes, were on the site of St. Anne when this party arrived.

December 1, 1851, 100 adults and 100 children made up the population. Building of homes was followed by erecting the first church. It was forty feet square, had two stories, a steeple and bell, and was surmounted by a flag pole. At the first, the ground floor was used for parsonage and the second for church, school and public assembly. Building started January 16, 1852, and it was blessed by Bishop Vandeveld, April 17, 1852. A steady influx of



immigrants necessitated an addition, doubling its length and this was completed in November, 1852. Beaverville and L'Erable were founded by Rev. Chiniquy with the continued influx of immigrants. In May, 1852, Rev. Chiniquy was appointed ~~apost~~ pro-tempore at Bourbonnais while having full charge at St. Anne.

The Bible meant much to Rev. Chiniquy and in 1852 he ordered New Testaments and Bibles for distribution in his parishes. Doubts were in his mind about auricular confession, immaculate conception and the authority of the church as practiced, because no proof was in the Bible concerning these. Personality differences and Rev. Chiniquy's insistence upon the authority of the Bible brought the final break with Bishop Smith on April 10, 1858.

Two days later Rev. Chiniquy presented the case of salvation by grace to his people in St. Anne with the result that four-fifths joined with him to form the Christian Catholic Church. Accepting the Bible as the Word of God, the only rule for faith and practice, this movement proved the same as those in Europe under Luther, Calvin, Knox and countless others. It was a protest entirely from within the church of Rome.

The summer of 1858 brought killing frosts and 1859 was visited with three weeks of continuous rain, drowning the growing crops. Relief was secured from new found friends in Philadelphia, New York and Boston, so that sufficient funds were given to pay all mortgages, procure food and necessary clothing.

In seeking affiliation with an established Protestant church, the Presbyterian was selected because of the French Huguenot heritage found therein. Rev. Chiniquy was accepted by the Presbytery of Chicago, February 1, 1860, as an ordained minister, and the St. Anne Church, April 12, 1860, as a Presbyterian Church. A French church in Kankakee, under Rev. Chiniquy's leadership, was received at the same time.

During Rev. Chiniquy's speaking tour to the British Isles and Europe from August, 1860 to February, 1861, the church was in charge of Rev. Henry Morrell and Mr. Theodore Monod, while the school was taught by Gustave Demars and then by Dr. J. B. L'hote, a minister of the Evangelical Church, Geneva, Switzerland. Unnamed problems (which are not clear from the sources studied) caused a group of 140 to petition Chicago Presbytery to form the Second Presbyterian Church and asked that Mr. Theodore Monod be their pastor, which was granted, and this church was formed February 21, 1861.

The Second Presbyterian Church purchased a parcel of ground on the west side of the present Dixie Hyway beginning about 100 feet south of Station Street and running about 700 feet south and west. A building was erected, located about mid-point of the property north and south and up to the road, in which the first service was held Thanksgiving Day, November 28, 1861. In 1866, this building was moved into the village. There is still a cemetery on the site of the Second Church property west of the Dixie Hyway.

Rev. Theodore Monod was born in Paris, France, November 6, 1836. He received the Bachelor of Science and Master of Arts degrees from the University of Paris in 1854, studied law for three years and received a degree in theology from Western Theological Seminary in 1861. In 1862, the Presbytery of Chicago ordained him

in the Second Presbyterian Church of St. Anne. His tireless endeavors brought stability and spiritual strength to the group he pastored. Conducting classes for Sunday School teachers and church officers, instructing in the disciplines of the Christian life, he and his flock were outstanding examples of those who follow Christ.

The sickness and death of Rev. Monod's father in Paris called him home. On April 13, 1865, he asked Presbytery for the pastoral relationship to be dissolved and a new pastor secured, for he had accepted a call to his father's church in Paris. He served two churches in Paris, was a writer, editor and author of seven books and pamphlets. He visited St. Anne about the turn of the century and died in Paris, February 26, 1921.

Rev. Heinrich Emmanuel Ludwig Lippert was engaged as pastor for the Second Church, August 31, 1865. This gentleman was born in Tessel, Prussia, December 5, 1830, received his academic degree from Realschule, Breslau, Germany in 1849, his theology degree from Western Theological Seminary in 1861 and was ordained by the Presbytery of Allegheny in 1861. He was a teacher prior to coming to St. Anne. Systematic, thorough and punctual in all his ways, he accomplished much in a short time. He formed a parochial school and taught it besides his arduous tasks as pastor. In 1868, he accepted more obligations when the French Presbyterian church in Kankakee was pastorless. This load of work proved too great, for on September 14, 1869, due to ill health, he asked Presbytery to be relieved of his pastoral responsibilities, recommending elder Andre Changnon as "a capable and suitable man" to take over the work. Presbytery licensed Mr. Changnon, placing him in charge as stated supply. Rev. Lippert continued with the parochial school until September 13, 1870, then he returned east to be a college professor until his early death January 15, 1876.

Among those who had been converted under Rev. Chiniquy, and educated in the school founded by him, was Placide Boudreau. He was born September 29, 1841 in St. John, Quebec and came with his parents to Illinois in 1853, staying for two years near Bourbonnais and then on to St. Anne. He was present during the days of transition from Romanism to Protestantism. On the occasion of the founding of the Second Presbyterian Church, he was elected an elder. His zeal for the Lord caused him to dedicate his life to the gospel ministry and, under the tutelage of Mr. Demars, Dr. Lihote, and Mr. Monod, made rapid strides in his studies. He had a year at Vermillion Institute, Haysville, Ohio, four years at Hanover College, Indiana (where he received his bachelor of arts degree in 1867) and three years at McCormick Theological Seminary. His theology and Master of Arts degrees were conferred in 1870. Chicago Presbytery ordained him at the Second Church in St. Anne in the fall of 1870.

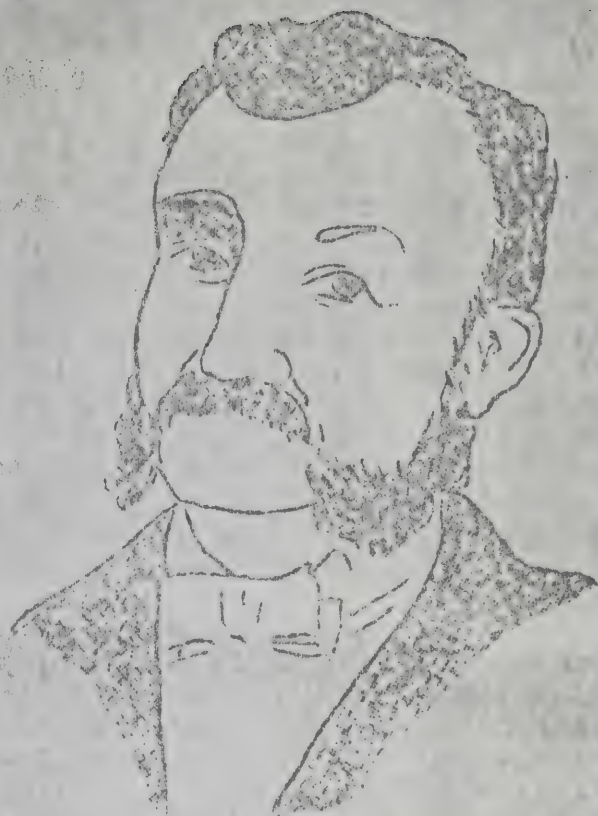
Mr. Boudreau continued active as an elder during his school years, representing his church from time to time at meetings of Presbytery. A French mission in Chicago was under his direction during his three years at McCormick. A more extensive work was started upon completion of his theological training, but the Second church of St. Anne extended a call to him.

There are those rare instances where a young man is asked by his home folk to be their pastor. Mr. Boudreau's outstanding

character enabled him to be spiritual leader of a group of whom a large number were his relatives and all of whom had known him from boyhood. Even today he is affectionately remembered as "Uncle Placide" by many in the St. Anne Church.

He continued in the dual capacity of pastor, and teacher of the Second Presbyterian Parochial School, and was active in Chicago Presbytery. The records reveal him as a godly, humble man; teaching, exhorting and setting a noble example of the spiritual life.

The men who served with him as elders had passed thru similar spiritual experiences. Christian stability is revealed by the record of lives won and strengthened in Christ.



Rev. Placide Boudreau
Pastor 1870 - 1899

In 1877, due to a chronic throat irritation, Rev. Boudreau asked for release as pastor. He continued to reside in St. Anne, teaching in the public school in order to meet the needs of his family. He had married Mary Changnon in 1875, a St. Anne girl, daughter of Andre Changnon, the elder who had cared for the Second church when Rev. Lippert's health prevented leadership. Rev. Boudreau's three children are: Paul, who died May 18, 1894 and was the first whose funeral service was held in the then new building, May (now Mrs. Hubert Duchene), and Pauline (now Mrs. Charles Doddridge).

As pastor of the Second Church, Rev. Placide Boudreau was succeeded by Rev. Charles Chavez, a man with a pleasing personality and love for children. After ministering to this group for three years Rev. Chavez became the shepherd of the St. Anne Baptist Church. Then Rev. Mose Frank Boudreau, brother to Rev. Placide Boudreau, became pastor of the Second church early in 1880. Another of her own young men in whom the church was willing to place utmost confidence as overseer.

Rev. Mose F. Boudreau accepted the call of a church in Canada in October 1881. Rev. Placide Boudreau had been supplying the pulpit of the French Presbyterian Church of Kankakee and was asked to return as pastor of the Second Church, which he did. With renewed vigor Rev. Placide Boudreau now applied himself to the task of pastoring the church which he had helped to organize, being one of its first elders and third pastor.

Let us now return to the account of the First Presbyterian Church and Rev. Chiniquy. Rev. Chiniquy was jealous for his flock.

It was his energies that had been expended in colonizing the entire south-east section of Kankakee County; it was his zeal and love for the Word of God that had led this people into a new found faith and relationship to Jesus Christ as only Saviour. He had solicited aid for their relief when frost and flood had wiped out their crops. His methods of conducting his affairs were patterned after the totalitarian church system which he had left. Protestantism called for decisions to come from the group and not from the top down. Working with Chicago Presbytery's committee on French Missions caused frustration. Misunderstandings led Rev. Chiniquy to apply and be received into the Canadian Presbyterian Church in 1863. The First Presbyterian Church was then enrolled in the Presbytery of Chatham, of the Canadian Church, and remained there until 1892, after the reunion of the two churches. The burning of the original church building in 1872, from an undetermined origin, was cause for further grief to Rev. Chiniquy, but a new building was quickly erected.

Rev. Chiniquy was much in demand as a lecturer on Temperance and Protestantism. His engagements took him to the British Isles and the continent for six months in 1860 and 1861; for six months of 1874 again to Great Britain; for months at a time on several occasions to Canada, from the Atlantic to the Pacific; to the west coast of the United States and intermittently for two years in the South Pacific. During his absences, Rev. Chrystophore La-Fontaine, a teacher in Chiniquy's church school, assumed leadership in the First Presbyterian Church, as did Rev. Misial Paradis, Rev. Joseph Paradis, Rev. Edward Pelletier, and Rev. Joseph Allard.

Rev. Chiniquy was married to Euphémie Allard, January 10, 1864, and had three children: Charles, who died in infancy, Rebecca (Mrs. J. L. Morin) and Emma (Mrs. Charles Delengeau).

Sessional records for January 6, 1883 contain a lengthy resolution designed for the eventual reunion of the First and Second Churches. Joint prayer meetings of the two churches were held. Revival meetings sponsored by the one would have hearty endorsement and cooperation of the other. In 1887 the final plan for reuniting the two groups was formulated. Early in September of that year, Rev. Chiniquy and his session sent the following invitation to Rev. Boudreau and his session: Rev. Chiniquy was to be away for a while on a lecture tour - would the Second Presbyterian Church with its pastor worship with the First Presbyterian Church Sunday mornings, and then in turn the First Church would worship with the Second Church Sunday evenings? The invitation was accepted and the plan executed. On December 1, 1887 each congregation had a meeting to vote on the following basis for organic union: 1. The two congregations unite and the rolls of the two be the roll for the united church; 2. the present sessions of the two churches be taken to form the one; 3. for the present, the ecclesiastical relations of the united church be in the Presbyterian Church in Canada. The congregation of the First Church went further to say that, because Rev. Chiniquy was resigning effective January 1, 1888, they desired to extend a pastoral call to Rev. Placide Boudreau, thus making him pastor of the united church.

Rev. Chiniquy wrote to Rev. Boudreau that it was his

intention to remain away from St. Anne until the union was culminated. In St. Anne the union was listed as final January 1, 1888, while the Presbytery of Chicago gave its blessing April 5, 1888 and dismissed the Second Church to the Presbytery of Chatham.

Spiritual blessing was upon this union and found expression in a new church building project. The first chapel had stood on the hill from 1852 to 1872, the silent witness of historic scenes. The bell of the second edifice, located on what is now the corner of Sheffield and St. Louis Avenues, pealed forth its call to worship on Sundays and beckoned children to school on week days. The church had been the place for public meetings and assemblies.

Here young people and adults gave their hearts and lives to the Lord; here young men dedicated themselves to the gospel ministry; marriages were performed in this sanctuary and from its portals the funeral cortege made its way to the south east corner of the church property where the town's first cemetery was located. Now the old building was to be torn down and a new church built. The old burial plot was to be abandoned for a new site of five acres (our town's present cemetery) donated by Rev. Chiniquy in 1890.

Rev. Boudreau desired the title to the property in the name of its trustees before building a new church. The abstract starts with the U. S. government selling to George Cassiday on July 12, 1850; George Cassiday to Michael Allain July 12, 1851; Michael Allain to Antoine Allain July 21, 1851; Antoine Allain to Bishop Vandeveld April 17, 1852; and the Bishop of Chicago to Charles Chiniquy May 21, 1878. Rev. Chiniquy had refused to vacate the property when he left the church of Rome on the basis that in the Roman Catholic church, church property is deeded to the bishop in trust, for the use of the people, and as the people of St. Anne had, en masse, left the Roman Catholic church, that property should by right, revert to the people. The final verdict rendered by the Circuit Court in Chancery in Kankakee, Illinois was: that Rev. Chiniquy had paid for the property, the people of the community had erected the improvements for the use of the whole community, that it had continued to be used for that purpose and should rightfully continue for the use of the whole community. (Rev. Placide Boudreau, in his account, states that Rev. Chiniquy deeded a parcel of ground in another section of town to the bishop.) Rev. Chiniquy had already deeded to the trustees of the school district, on August 20, 1887, that tract of five acres of land on which our present grade school is located. Rev. Boudreau now asked Rev. Chiniquy if he would deed the church property to the trustees of the First Presbyterian Church. He did so and on December 14, 1892 the present property was given to the church trustees with a clear title.

A building committee of 20 (Mr. Eddie Brouillette the present sole survivor) was organized in March 1893, plans adopted, ground broken, and the building begun. On December 3, 1893 the new church was dedicated.

On March 5, 1893 Rev. Chiniquy was in St. Anne to preach his last sermon in the old building before it was to be torn down. Advanced years had weakened his body but his mind was clear and alert. St. Anne and her people were dear to his heart. No one in

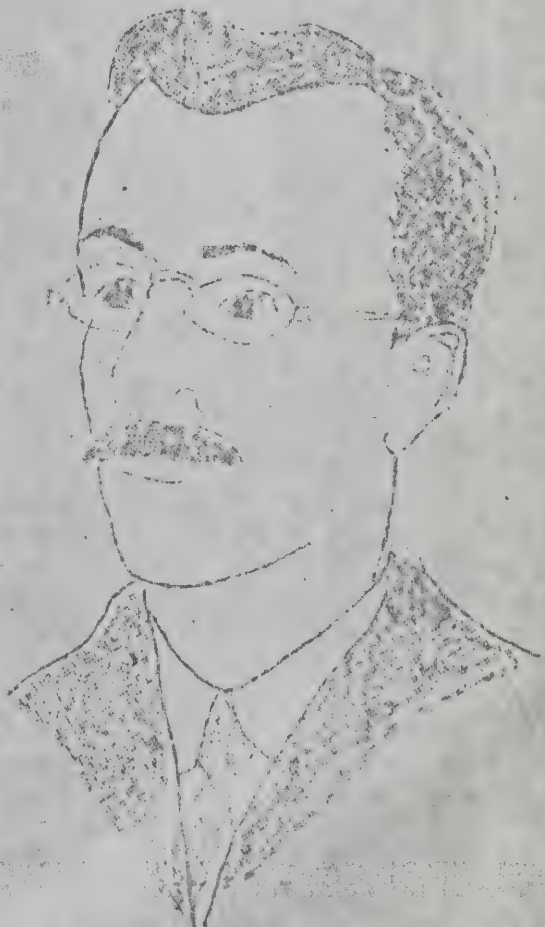
need was ever denied. A generous spirit ruled in his breast and his benefactions are still retold by those who knew him. Besides contributing land for the community grade school, cemetery and Presbyterian church, he deeded land for a right of way for the Chicago and Eastern Illinois Railroad thru St. Anne.

Rev. Chiniquy accepted an invitation to conduct a week of meetings in St. Anne from March 24 to 31, 1895. Among his list of messages were: his conversion, Temperance, The Sacrifice of Christ; and The Lord's Day. He was firm to the end in salvation by grace and rejected an invitation a week prior to his death from Archbishop Buchesi of Montreal to return to the church of Rome. A notarized statement gives seven reasons why he would die a Protestant. On January 16, 1899 he went to be with his Lord. Memorial services were held in the St. Anne church February 26, 1899, and a memorial plaque placed in the church July 10, 1921.

Rev. Placide Boudreau's expended energies in the united church overtaxed his body. Several times he spoke to the session about resigning, but to no avail. Finally he insisted and his resignation became effective April 9, 1899. He opened a mission field in Grand Mere, Quebec, stayed for a short time and in 1900 was called to the pastorate of St. John's church, Quebec. For ten years he continued his tireless labors and retired in 1910. On December 14, 1921 he went to be with the Lord and his body was interred in the present St. Anne cemetery.

On November 9, 1899, there came to the pulpit of the St. Anne church a tall, lean bundle of nervous energy, Rev. Louis R. Giroulx. Born August 25, 1868 in a Christian farm home at Masham, Quebec, he learned the truths of God's word and accepted Christ at the age of 14. His first schooling was in Mission schools. At 17 the church Missionary Board assigned him to Colportage work in the provinces of Quebec and New Brunswick. The Presbyterian Seminary of Montreal is his alma mater, where he received his scholastic and theological degrees. His ordination was by the Presbytery of Montreal in July 1894. After five years as pastor in Canada he came to St. Anne.

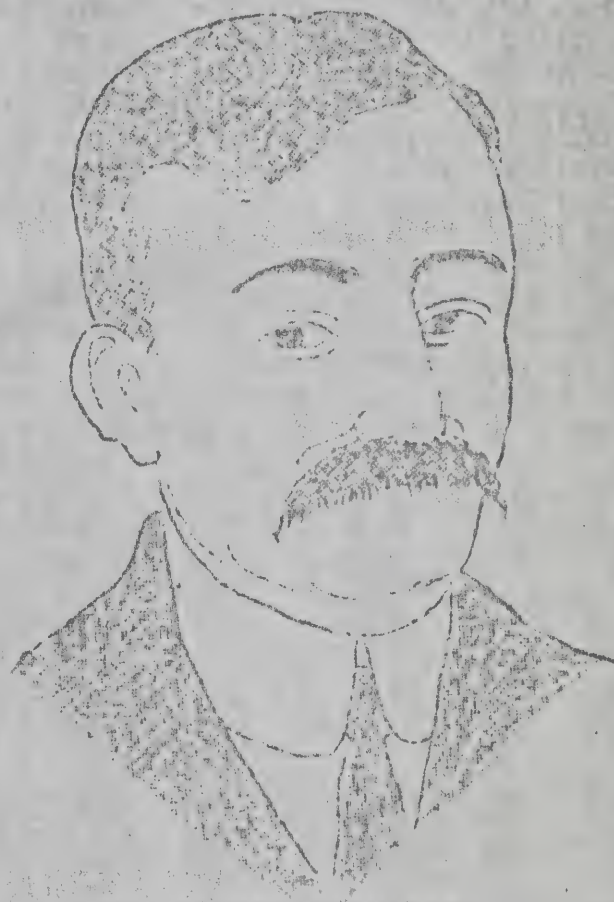
The first problem which confronted Rev. Giroulx was a mortgage of \$1393 on the new building and \$300 due Rev. Boudreau for salary. With vigor and perseverance this problem was tackled and the entire debt liquidated. Wooden sidewalks were replaced with concrete, a vocalian organ purchased and rolling



Rev. Louis R. Giroulx
Pastor 1899 - 1906

curtains to separate the north room from the sanctuary. Rev. Giroux held high moral and spiritual standards and was a relentless foe of the liquor traffic. The several departments of the church were strengthened and a large number of accessions to the church on confession of faith were made during his pastorate. Rev. Giroux was married September 19, 1894. The Giroux's had eight children; Calvin and Ernest born in Candada, Louis, Aimee, and Elsie born in St. Anne, Henry born in Oshkosh, Wisconsin, and Doris and Grace in Green Bay, Wisconsin. On April 1, 1906 Rev. Giroux left St. Anne. He held pastorates in Wisconsin and Indiana and is now residing in Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, still on call to preach the gospel.

In August, 1906 Rev. Piorre Beauchamp became pastor. He was born November 2, 1869 in Grenville, Canada, his parents were Christians and members of the Presbyterian Church. His father was a cabinet maker and carpenter. Mr. Beauchamp received his first schooling in a school conducted by the Board of Missions. Further training was secured at Point-Aux-Tremble College and the Presbyterian College on the campus of McGill University in Montreal, where he received a degree in 1895. During his senior year in college he had a student pastorate, was for five years pastor of churches in the Laurentian Mountains of Quebec, three years at Grace Church, Green Bay, Wisconsin and then to St. Anne.



Rev. Piorre Beauchamp
Pastor 1906 - 1917

Rev. Beauchamp was united in marriage November 12, 1895 to Percide Cruchet and the ceremony was performed by his uncle, Rev. P. E. St. Germaine. They had eight children: Felix, Calvin, Gertrude and Lillian before coming to St. Anne, and Wilbur, Estelle, Elston and Chalmers born in St. Anne.

Rev. Beauchamp's persistence in clinging to uprightness of lofty principles and high ideals, won him the hearts of the people. The church made steady progress. Concerning the wet and dry issue, Rev. Beauchamp spoke firmly for temperance, receiving verbal and physical abuse from radicals and rowdies. The church had a semi-centennial celebration July 28 to 30, 1909 under the leadership of this able pastor. With no house there was a movement under way to build one. This was done in 1911 at a total cost of \$4124.50. When the house was completed there was a

balance of \$1400.08 to pay. Rev. Beauchamp and his family moved in the end of October 1911 and remained until he moved July 9, 1917 to Saskatchewan, Canada. Later he served a large field in Quebec as a missionary where he labored until his death February 3, 1935.

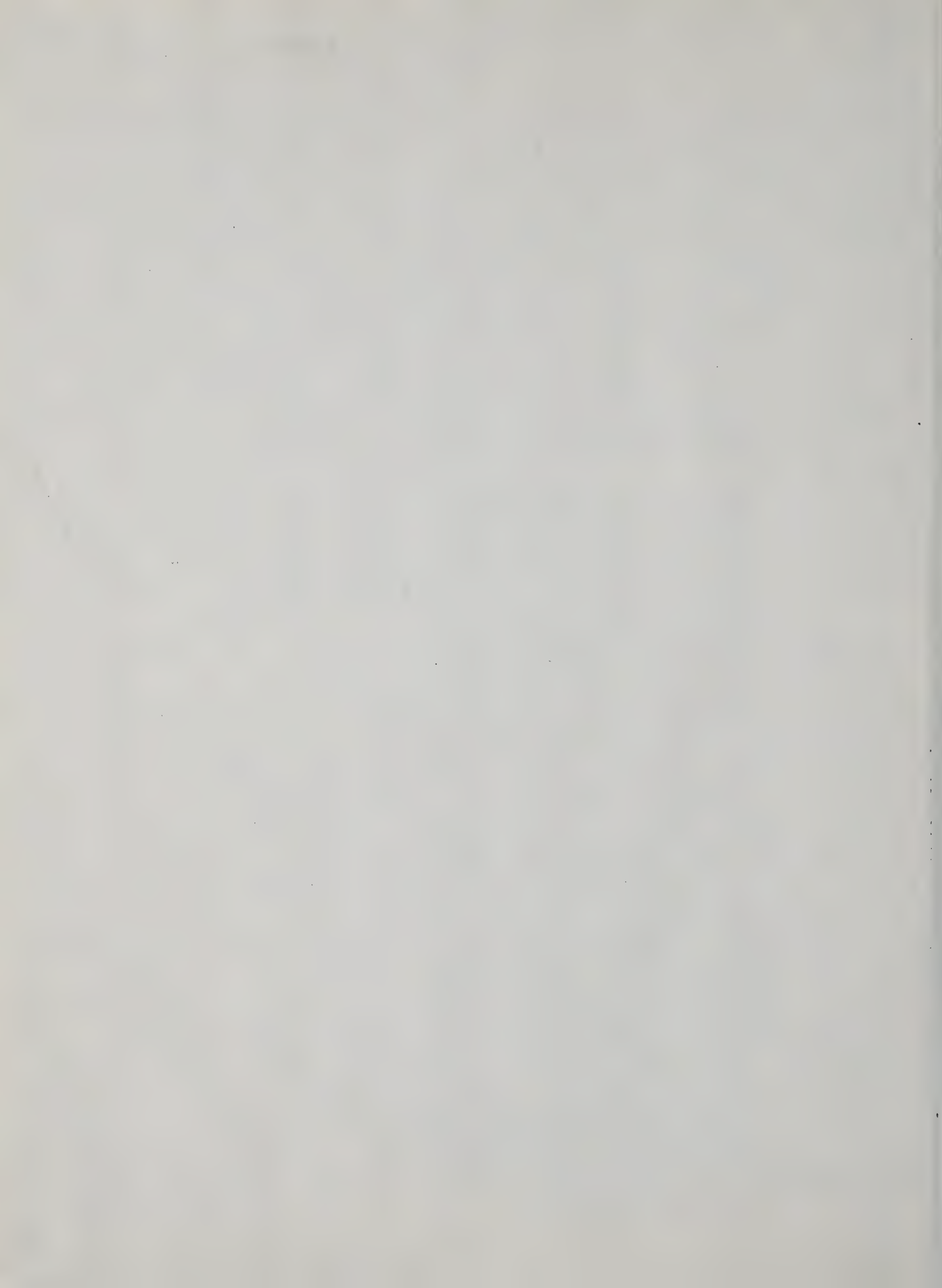
French was the only language in St. Anne when it was first settled and spoken in all the services of the church. Not until the middle 1890's do the records mention the use of English and then some evening services in that language were introduced by Rev. Placide Boudreau for the few "Americans" in the community. Gradually, after the turn of the century, a few more services were held in English. In congregational meetings, reports were given in English and French. On November 16, 1902 Remi Belanger wished to resign as elder because he neither spoke nor understood English. He missed out occasionally when someone spoke in English. Beginning in July, 1905 worship was conducted in English the first Sunday morning of each month. In 1908 alternate communion services were in English. French was used in services until 1917 with Rev. Pierre Beauchamp being the last minister to preach in French.

Rev. Chiniquy in 1890 had given five acres of land west of the village to be used for a town cemetery. From the original cemetery on the church property most of the burials were removed to the new one. In opening the graves nothing was done to level the ground and soon the place was over grown with trees and brush. Rev. Beauchamp got a group of young men to clean out and level the old cemetery grounds and he then planted an orchard which still produces delicious fruit.

Rev. Morton W. Merrell was the first pastor to conduct all the regular church services in English, even though he could claim French descent. During the Huguenot persecutions in France, the de Merle family fled and the name changed to Merrell in English. Rev. Merrell was reared the son of a Methodist minister and received his college and theological training at Northwestern, completing his seminary training May 5, 1908. That same evening he was married and took his bride to the Methodist parsonage of his first charge. Ill health caused him to give up his work and some time later he was asked to be assistant pastor at the First Presbyterian Church in Evanston, Illinois. The Presbytery of Chicago licensed him to preach in September 1912 and he went to Menominee, North Dakota, thence to the



Rev. Morton W. Merrell
Pastor 1917 - 1922



Presbytery of LaCrosse in Wisconsin and on December 9, 1917 was installed pastor in St. Anne.

Rev. Merrell's outstanding contribution while in St. Anne centered in missionary endeavor. The church undertook the support of Rev. and Mrs. Clarence A. Phillips in Caracas, Venezuela, missionaries under our foreign board. The church steeple, which was weakened by a tornado, was removed and repairs made to the partly damaged edifice. To commemorate the memory of Rev. Chiniquy, a bas relief of him, with an inscription in French, was placed in the church. All departments of the church flourished under the leadership of Rev. Merrell until he asked for a dissolution of the pastoral relation to take effect July 1, 1922. From St. Anne he went to the Campbell Park Church, to the Illinois Children's Home and Aid Society, a pastorate in upper Michigan, a period of selling Bibles, again to pastorates at Elizabeth, Illinois, Galena, Illinois, and now lives in Golconda, Illinois.

The older members of the congregation missed their French speaking pastors. Rev. Pierre Beauchamp was contacted and said he would return to St. Anne if a unanimous call were extended. Altho a majority voted for him, but not unanimous, a call was not extended. But a call was extended to Rev. Simon Fred Wenger who arrived on November 30, 1922. Rev. Wenger was born on a farm at Upper Sandusky, Ohio and after completing public school taught for five years. College training was had at Ohio Northern U., Leander Clark College, Otterbein (A.B. and M.A. degrees) and University of Cincinnati. Bachelor of Divinity and Bachelor of Theology degrees were earned at Lane Theological Seminary. Rev. Wenger was ordained by the Church of the United Brethren in Christ September 27, 1914 and in 1918 was received as a minister in the Presbyterian church. He was united in marriage to Eva B. Helmer June 25, 1919. A son, Lane Clark, died in infancy. Prior to his pastorate in St. Anne, he served churches in Iowa, Ohio, Indiana and the Grandview-Dudley churches in Illinois.

Rev. Wenger's organizational ability and Mrs. Wenger's helpfulness with children in Junior Choir and Young People's groups, brought splendid results. The congregation was brought to feel a sense of unity in its every endeavor. Cooperative programs were shared with local and county Christian groups. Street paving and



Rev. Simon Fred Wenger
Pastor 1922 - 1928

sewer system were installed at this time in St. Anne. A double tennis court was made and maintained to the north of the church building. Rev. Wenger was active in civic groups and the church lent itself to the larger community welfare. Receptions for our public school teachers were inaugurated. After a fruitful ministry and the leading of many young people into a fuller spiritual life, Rev. Wenger tendered his resignation effective January 20, 1928. From St. Anne he pursued his vocation in Minnesota, Iowa and back to Illinois and is at present pastor at Nauvoo.

The congregation extended a call to Rev. Isaac Wesley Parrish, Sr. May 9, 1928 and he and his family of eleven moved to St. Anne near the end of that month. Rev. Parrish was born August 9, 1874 at Nashville, Tennessee, the son of a farmer and circuit judge. He lost his mother when only two years of age. He earned scholastic degrees at Vanderbilt and Nashville Seminary, having felt the divine call as a boy.

After his marriage to Zettie Belle Allen in September 1899, he settled awhile on a farm. He was ordained as a minister of the gospel in 1901 in the Tennessee Conference of the Southern Methodist Church. The Parrish family consists of nine children; Earl, William (who died in 1918), Winnabelle, Mary, Cleve Ruth, Isaac W. Jr., Gertrude, Allen, and Martha.

The church building had been too small for some time to accommodate the needs of the congregation. Plans had been discussed for various alterations to the building. It was decided to dig out the basement. This was done making a large finished room, a kitchen and rest rooms. A new heating plant was installed. In the sanctuary the old curved platform was straightened, giving more space.

Mr. and Mrs. Parrish did a commendable work with the young people, establishing and leading an active Christian Endeavor group. The depression came while Rev. Parrish was in St. Anne with its upsetting economic features; causing additional burdens to pastor, officers and people alike.

Prior to coming to St. Anne, Rev. Parrish had first been with the Southern Methodist church, and, desiring to come north for the education of his family, transferred to the Presbyterian



Rev. Isaac W. Parrish, Sr.
Pastor 1928 - 1933

church. He served churches in Indiana and Homer, Illinois. He tendered his St. Anne resignation January 4, 1933 and has since served pastorates in Michigan until his health caused him to retire. Rev. and Mrs. Parrish are living in Clarkston, Michigan at present.

Soul searching was present among the membership of the St. Anne church during the depression days. God was speaking to His own. When a call was extended to Rev. Bertram Betteridge, September 30, 1933, the economic condition of the community was still at low ebb. Rev. Betteridge, a godly man, trusted the Lord implicitly. Born March 22, 1903 in Springfield, Illinois, the seventh of eight children, his father was a coal miner, and there were times of privation. His schooling was in Springfield's public schools, Illinois Business College, Moody Bible Institute, Illinois College at Jacksonville (Bachelor of Arts degree 1929), and Dallas Theological Seminary with a Bachelor's and Master's degree in Theology in 1932. He served as student pastor at Tallula, Illinois during his college days and as assistant pastor in Third Church, Springfield, Illinois in 1932-33. He was married June 2, 1930 to Jeanette Graham and had four children; David, born in Springfield, Elizabeth, Paul and Anne.



Rev. Bertram Betteridge
Pastor 1933 - 1945

Louise in St. Anne. Anne Louise died in infancy. For several years Mrs. Betteridge was an invalid and died April 24, 1944.

The faithful preaching and teaching of God's word bore fruit. In the lives of the large number who listened and many gave their hearts in full surrender to the Lord. Improvements were made to the church property. Old trees were cut out of the church yard and a grove planted to the north of the church. A Kimball pipe organ was purchased and installed. A new roof was put on the church, a Sunday School room added in the basement, a stoker added to the church furnace and a new furnace for the manse. Daily Vacation Bible School was begun in 1934 and has continued successively each summer since. Financing was placed on the specific project plan with the annual Thank Offering at Thanksgiving. Weekly church bulletins were instituted on January 1, 1939. The choir purchased robes in the winter of 1943. Rev. Betteridge resigned November 1, 1945 to accept a call to the Bethel Church in Peoria, Illinois, where he still serves. November 12, 1947 he was

united in marriage to Tholma Darrall and Ruth Helen was born to this union September 13, 1948.

On February 15, 1946, Rev. Stephen Albert Woodruff, Jr. came to St. Anne. He was born of God fearing parents, the fourth in a family of five children. His schooling was in Chicago's public schools, Wheaton College (Bachelor of Science 1929) and Dallas Theological Seminary (Bachelor of Theology 1932). The Presbytery of Hastings ordained him February 2, 1933. Pastorates were held in Nebraska, Wyoming and Syracuse, New York. On June 25, 1932 he was united in marriage to Data May Miller and they have two children; Stephen A. III and Margaret Anne.



Rev. Stephen A. Woodruff, Jr.*
Pastor 1946 -

An emphasis on the world wide need for the spread of the gospel brought missionaries from every corner of the globe to St. Anne. Rev. Cullen I. K. Story, missionary to Lebanon, is partially supported by the church. Cooperative endeavors have been entered into with other churches to make the cause of Christ more effective in the community. Average attendance at all services of the church is higher than for some time. The interior of the church was redecorated in February 1948, and lantern type light fixtures installed. This past year the basement has been repainted and new stoves installed in the kitchen. The tower of the church has been resurfaced and cement steps cover the cut limestone ones that served so many years. In the church yard a number of hardwood trees have been set out.

The problem of more space for our Sunday School is to be answered. The trustees appointed a Building Committee late in 1947 with authority to solicit funds and draw up plans for an addition to our present building. At present there is \$13,301.74 in the fund for that purpose.

The future is before us to walk with the Lord as He leads. We can say with Solomon "Trust in the Lord with all thine heart, and lean not unto thine own understanding." Proverbs 3:5 and with Samuel (1 Samuel 7:12) "Hitherto hath the Lord helped us." We press on to glorify our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

* Mr. Woodruff's beard displays the Centennial temporary style of 1950.

The following lists have been compiled to set forth the names of men who have served as elders and trustees and those who have gone from our church into full time Christian service. These lists are composites from the First and Second churches.

Elders Achilles Chiniquy, Louis Mercier, Jeremiah Morin, August Faucher, Francis Lavar, Abraham Pelletier, Moses Morain, Louis Guilot, Joseph Cheffer, John B. Sirois, Francois Larriviere, Louis Langellier, Andre Changnon, Placide Boudreau, Philip Ducharme, Sr., Severo Martin, Louis Fortin, Leon Ducharme, Arthur J. Changnon, Stanislaus St. Pierre, Leger Martin, M. Fortin, E. A. St. Peter, George Soucie, Mr. Boillard, Joel Senesac, Remi Belanger, Joseph Poutra, Eddie Martin, Eli C. Corkins, Moise Manny, Oliver Allain, Hiliaro S. Duby, Louis Lacroix, Cleophas Soucie, Ulysse A. Cote, Horace E. Senesac, Nazaire Bertrand, George Allain, John Ashline, Lawrence Lacroix, Charles Allain, Oliver Lobert, Henry Soucie, Leo Mercier, Albert Blankestyn, Chester Sirois, Neil Dykstra, Paul DuMontello.

Trustees Michael Drolet, Abraham Pelletier, Thomas Seales, Achilles Chiniquy, Charles Chiniquy, Michael Allain, Joseph Martin, Louis Mercier, Ausaline Robillard, Moise Langellier, Peter Hubert, George Soucie, J. S. Soucie, Pierre Laroche, Louis Fortin, Eusebius Tetro, August Faucher, Pierre Morais, John B. Brouillette, Philip Ducharme, Eli C. Corkins, Arthur Sutton, Joel Senesac, Moses Chartier, Jacob Mayeau, Napoleon B. St. Pierre, Joseph Poutra, Jr., Louis Lacroix, Charles Paradis, Nelson Brouillette, Docite T. Allard, George L. Scott, August Fregeau, Achille Faucher, Philemon Spenard, Eddie Brouillette, Horace E. Senesac, Edward Manny, A. R. Tunks, Louis C. Woodington, Levi A. Martin, Mose Soucie, John B. Ashline, Leo Mercier, Lloyd L. Langdoc, Eugene Duby, Joseph B. Johnson, Loverne D. Corkins, Camille Sprimont, Albert Cheffer, Neil Dykstra, Chester Sirois, Robert Dykstra, Harry Allain, Paul Conway, Max Darrow, John DeMik, Tunis Hookstra, Percy R. Hair, Dan Laramore, Richard J. Bushler, Melvin Duby.

Ministers of the Gospel and Missionaries Edward St. Pierre, Joseph Allard, Joseph Paradis, Mislai Paradis, Edward Pelletier, F. X. Miron, Andre Changnon, Placide Boudreau, Mose Frank Boudreau, Charles Brouillette, Telesphore Brouillette, Saul Langdoc, Philias A. St. John, Mr. Migneron, Lola Scott.



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